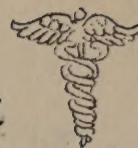


# Record and Chronicle



Maintained by  
THE HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY

for Dispensing the Family Gossip to our  
Members with the Armed Forces

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Dr. Joseph P. Hoguet has been asked to write a feature article for this issue. Dr. Hoguet is Medical Director of the Medical Department of the Republic Aviation Corporation, Farmingdale, L.I. where the P47 Thunderbolt is now running off the production line in large numbers. They treat 500-700 persons a day in the Medical Department and have a staff of 35 persons, including 6 doctors, 20 nurses, a couple of ambulance drivers and medical record clerks. Dr. Hoguet's article follows:

I note with pleasure that you as editor of the Record and Chronicle have certain archeological tendencies and are now delving into antiquity. In the issue of December 15th, 1943 appeared an article by David Gillespie on the old hospital and now you appeal to me to give you more details of the past. It is not an uncongenial task for me to sit and write about the good old days. There come to my mind pleasant recollections of many real friends who have gone into the great beyond, and whose absence creates a real void.

The time I spent at the old hospital was short and yet my recollections of it are vivid. When I finished my internship at St. Luke's in the summer of 1910 I went to see Doctor William B. Coley at his office Number 5 Park Avenue. I had been one of his prosectors when he lectured at the P & S. He brought me around the corner to Number 33 East 33rd Street, the old fire trap of remodeled private houses which was then known as Doctor Bull's Private Hospital. There, Doctor John B. Walker interviewed me and took me on as an assistant on his service at the Ruptured and Crippled. Dr. Bull was already a sick man and had practically given up his work so that the two hernia services were under Doctors Coley and Walker. Doctor Gillespie has described the old hospital very well in his article -- the long, wide, dark corridors, the large sunny wards that were full of children with Potts Disease, tuberculous joints, and tuberculous bone disease, all of which are so comparatively rare today.

The hernia operations were all done on one day a week and the same Bassini operation was done as it is today with the difference that Kangaroo tendon was used instead of silk. Buried silk sutures had only recently been given up and as a warning to the surgeons of today I may mention the fact that I spent many hours in the clinic fishing for silk sutures in the sinuses that they seemed to form so very frequently. The instrument we used was a sort of a crochet needle that Doctor Coley had devised.

My stay in the old hospital was not very much prolonged as the New York Central Railroad bought the property and paid well enough so that the present building could be erected. In November 1912 I left on my honeymoon and in the next month began my work in the new building which had just been completed. It was at that time the last word in hospital construction and seemed very palatial to all of us.

In these 31 years many changes have been made in this building. The easterly entrance had to its left an open hallway with a telephone switchboard about two feet square. It was run by one of the crippled patients whenever she happened to think of its existence which was not very frequent as telephone messages were few and far between.

North of the present cashier's cage was the superintendent's office, where sat that most popular of men, Joe Flick. He was not an Adonis by any means. His collar was generally rumpled up, his trousers baggy and shapeless, and his necktie always looked as though it had been tied in the dark. And yet within him dwelt the kindest soul and the biggest heart I have ever had the privilege of knowing. He was beloved by patients, doctors, nurses and employees, and his passing was a great sorrow to many of us.

In the westerly wing on the north side was the little laboratory where old Doctor Jeffries pottered around amongst his bottles and flasks. I was only a callow youth in 1912 and Doctor Jeffries seemed to be an old man then, but the years never seemed to make him any older. He was always laughing and joking and the gossips maintained he wore a toupee.

Of course, the present x-ray department did not exist. As I remember it that space was filled with musty leather-bound volumes of records and presided over by a very ancient old lady who never could find a record and neither could she smile.

There was no Gibney Pavilion and the present laboratory and library are so new that their origin is within the span of memory of some of the youngest.

World War I came along in 1914 and disturbed the lives of many of us, but at its close we all settled down again to a happy professional life in the then comparatively new building.

The figures and faces of many men that I worked with in the hospital in those days come to my mind. There was Doctor Gibney, the pioneer orthopaedist whom we all looked up to with reverence, admiration and affection, and yet who was never so dignified that he could not crack a joke or tell a story to us youngsters.

There was sharp-tongued Doctor Royal Whitman who had one of the best surgical minds I have ever known and who will go down in medical history as one of the fathers of modern orthopaedic surgery.

I feel a thrill within me every time I see the portrait of Doctor William B. Coley in the hospital. My association with him was long and close and I treasure every recollection of it. His loud voice which made the operating room re-echo I always enjoyed hearing. He had a character that everyone loved and admired. He spent the greater part of his working hours amongst cancer patients and I am certain that he made their sufferings easier by his presence. In spite of all his physical handicaps he was always patient, a perfect gentleman, and a great surgeon.

John Baldwin Walker was another who helped me constantly. The most meticulous man in every way that I ever knew, he had the strictest principles about life that anyone could have. There were times in the operating room when his excitability was hard to stand, especially when his pet subcuticular stitch did not come out well, but he was always the perfect gentleman and I shall ever be grateful to him for what he did for me. He died only a few years ago at the age of 92.

incorrectly. It should have been, U.S.N. Base Hospital No. 4, Navy 133, % Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Cal.

A letter has been received from Mrs. Fitzgerald stating that her husband John S. Fitzgerald, (student 1928-29) is a Lt. Comm. and is in the South Pacific. His address is: Lt. Comm. John S. Fitzgerald, U.S. Naval Mobile Hospital #10, % Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California. She writes, "Your January 15th issue has a name (Nick DeSanto's) that is very familiar to me and when this war is over we again expect to see him at the racetrack at Saratoga in August as we have always done for years".

On Sunday, January 16th, Mary Pickford visited the hospital and had her picture taken with some of our children. These pictures appeared in the newspapers and are now showing at the newsreel theaters in the interest of the March of Dimes for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Dr. Pettengill has contributed a couple of knives to the crew of U.S.S. PC1206. In a recent issue, the Editor made a mistake and credited Miss Lydia Drought with more knives than she had collected for the crew. Such a mistake was probably deserving of a scurrilous letter to the Editor, but not from Miss Drought. She went out and collected enough knives to more than make up for the Editor's mistake.

We are very sorry to report that Dr. Ralph Rowen has returned to Chicago. We will miss Ralph's very pleasant and captivating personality around the hospital and we know that our patients will miss his kindly interest in them and his splendid clinical ability. We wish Ralph good luck in whatever his future undertakings may be.

We have been trying for some months to institute a new system for the distribution of our linens. To inaugurate this system, we have had to stock up on a large quota of new linens which has meant that all these linens had to be stamped or labeled. As we have had no help to do this, in order to get it done, a number of Stamping and Sewing Bees have been held during the evening hours. Some of the participants felt that the spectacle was interesting enough to have it sketched by our Art Department. Unfortunately, or fortunately, our artist was not present. Those who volunteered and participated in the stamping, sewing, sorting and hustling of packing cases were; on the first occasion, Cleanthe Logotheton, Hazel Evans, Myrna Miller, Myrtle Rathburn, Beatrice McEwan, Gordon Young, George Shannon, and Wilson Keller. At the second Stamping Bee there was Mary Flick, Annie Brown, Anne Schoppman, Agnes Gibson, Henrietta Geisendoerfer, Hazel Evans, Cleanthe Logotheton, Gordon Young and George Shannon. On two Saturdays, Mrs. George L. Shearer with two of her friends helped sew labels on blankets.

Miss Rabkin came across the following in one of the patients' charts, which brings back memories of Charlie Kincheloe. "Patient comes in complaining of pain in dorsum of left ankle. About three weeks ago, patient was kicked in the dorsum of ankle by a very impolite heel".

Capt. Harry Sherman who is stationed at Greenville Army Air Base, Greenville, S. C. sent in his Operating Room Assistant, Pfc. Smith, who evidently was on furlough, to find out for him the exact description of the needles which we are using in doing hernia repairs. He (Harry) wrote in his letter of introduction for Pvt. Smith, "Nothing has changed here since my last trip into town. I am still fighting the Battle of Greenville with great vigor and don't know how much longer I

And so Mr. Editor, this is the end of the mental meanderings of one of the "Old Guard". I have not told of any of the occurrences which you mentioned in your letter to me, (what went on in the linen rooms of the old hospital, etc.) but I wanted to tell the younger generation of the great men of the past who made the hospital what it is today, and who helped to make the life of a young surgeon so thoroughly enjoyable. May this younger generation have similar associations, the same lucky experiences and the same happy surgical career that I had at the Ruptured and Crippled. This is the best wish that can be made for them by,

Peter Hoguet

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A letter has been received from Fiji Fritz Waknitz written somewhere in the Southwest Pacific on Christmas Eve. He addresses it to the staff and employees. He writes: "Dear Friends: Many thanks to you all for the splendid Christmas greeting. Such a token brings to us forcefully the traditions of our hospital and your constant interest in us. We are saying, 'May the New Year be a victorious One' and my best wishes to you all. We are having a very good Christmas out here, - too well out of harms way and in thoroughly comfortable surroundings. The patients thru the Red Cross and Special Service have each received two cans of cold beer, or Coca Cola, and a Christmas package - valued in that order, I think. Our group is extraordinarily pious tonite. The evening has been spent thus far by nurses and officers singing Christmas Carols outside the wards with the patients in the area and on the verandas. I wish I had a glowing account to give of how we are winning the war. We seem to keep fairly busy but I feel are somewhat in the position of 'those also serve who only stand and wait'."

Homer Pheasant writes under date of January 13th from the Central Pacific area. "That swell Christmas Greeting that was sent out to the R. & C. Alumni Family was so swell and brought back so many memories of R. & C. that it darned near brought tears to my eyes. Since my letter to Dr. Wilson a number of things have occurred to alter my situation. Most important was the opportunity to be with my family for five days. Next in importance was a change which while leaving me C.O. of this unit (of paper significance only) made me Chief of orthopaedics of a large unit. We will be set up and operating very shortly and again there will be an opportunity for me to profit by doing professional work again. Lastly, but also of some significance was my boost in rank which came about as I was despairing of it ever finding me". We all congratulate Homer Pheasant on his promotion from Captain to Major.

Capt. Ted Geiger stopped in for a visit on January 15th. He reports that he is on a special detached mission from Walter Reed and will be away for possibly another two weeks. He says he is working harder than he has ever done and that Walter Reed has a very large orthopaedic section with very few orthopaedists, so Tommy Thompson and his staff are really working.

Dr. John McDermott of Hartford, Conn., stopped in on January 13th to say hello to his old friends. Dr. McDermott was a student interne, and Resident on the Surgical Service in 1924-25. He is now on the staff of St. Francis' Hospital in Hartford, Conn. A warm welcome awaits all alumni.

We have just learned that Arthur A. Knapp has been promoted from a Lt. Comm. to Commander. We all wish to congratulate Comm. Knapp on his advancement in rank. In the last issue of the Record & Chronicle, we reported his address

will be doing it. You might relay to the Surgical Service, if you will, that I had occasion to do a splenectomy the other day for a lacerated spleen, and the patient is still doing well much to my surprise". He sends regards to all his former associates.

Lt. Yankiver visited us on Saturday, January 22nd. He is now stationed at Tilton General Hospital, Ft. Dix, New Jersey.

EXTRA!!!!!!

EXTRA!!!!!!

EXTRA!!!!!!

#### FOUR HORSEMEN ARE AGAIN UNITED

Comm. Carr has been in town for a number of days waiting his ship. Frank looks every bit a Navy officer with his three full stripes of gold braid and the scrambled eggs on the visor of his hat. At the Monday morning conference on January 17th, he entertained us and enlightened us on some of the Navy ways and some of his experiences. "Pop" Snyder gave the Four Horseman a swell dinner on January 28th, and the Director was invited as the "Fifth Wheel"- no not reel.

The Fourth War Loan Drive is now underway. The Doctors, Board of Managers, and the personnel of the hospital are responding in large numbers and most generously in backing you who are with the Armed Forces by the purchase of bonds. Our quota is a large one, \$4500., but it looks like we'll make it. We are Backing the Attack with War Bonds which is little enough on our part.

We have heard that George L. Butler, a surgical resident from 1936 to 1937, went into the Navy as Lt. (j.g.) on April 1, 1941. In February 1942, he was transferred to San Diego and attached to the Marines. He stayed in San Diego until the latter part of January 1943 when he was shipped overseas. He has been in the South Pacific for sometime in active combat service. He is now a Lt. Comm., is married, and has a daughter 15 months old. His present address is Lt. Comm. George L. Butler, USNR, Co. "A", Third Medical Battalion, Third Marine Division, % Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California.

We are sorry to report that Dr. Jose Machado from Brazil who came to us through the Institute of International Education and has been serving as a non-resident fellow for the last six months is returning to Brazil. Dr. Machado has made many friends while here and has been of splendid assistance to us in the care of our patients.

The Hospital for Special Surgery makes the news again for their excellent work in connection with the United Hospital Fund drive. The Board of Managers as formerly reported did a fine job and won a prize, but you just cannot outdo the ladies. A cash reward of \$750. has been made to the Women's Auxiliary-Social Service Committee of this hospital for attaining second place of all the voluntary hospitals in New York City for general excellence of work in the recently completed annual fund-raising campaign of the United Hospital Fund. In addition, Mrs. John H. Reynolds, Chairman of our Committee, was awarded \$75. for bringing in the greatest number of all subscriptions of \$5.00 and over, and Mrs. Bertha Alderson, a member of our Committee, was awarded \$50. second prize for the greatest number of new subscribers of \$5.00 and over. We are proud of the recognition of the fine services of our Women's Auxiliary-Social Service Committee.

Dr. Wilson has received letters from Donald Dial, and Bill Hindle. The address of Major Donald E. Dial is now: O-528425, 16th General Hospital, A.P.O. #515, % Postmaster, New York, N.Y. He wrote on January 10th from "somewhere in

Britain". "We're here, you know what the weather is like, and we hope for better. The trip was uneventful. We are temporarily located in barracks, together with another general hospital, at a camp of engineers. We have been told that a better place, one in which we will actually work, is being prepared for us, to be ready 'soon'. I think Dudley Smith occupied my present quarters - his name is chalked on my door." Bill Hindle writes as of January 3rd, "Since we last said goodbye I have traveled far and seen a great deal. Our main unit is now located in a small village somewhere in England on a large estate which has been turned into a hospital. We are just about ready to function according to word received. A few of us were temporarily detached to carry on an already functioning hospital until permanent personnel arrived. We have had an excellent opportunity to go right to work caring for our first patients in almost six months. The work has not been heavy mainly because we have been functioning as a Station Hospital. Coincidentally all the cases that I have referred from here for further treatment or disposition have gone to Bob Patterson at the Churchill Hospital. I sent a short note to him with one of the patients but one of these days hope to pay him a visit. Neill Garber is located around here some place but haven't located him as yet. A golden opportunity was presented to me today which I have eagerly accepted. I am to attend a five day clinic under Watson-Jones in London. I am really thrilled by this good fortune and know that I will benefit a great deal by even this short course. My best wishes to you and all the R. & C. for a successful and peaceful New Year". Capt. Hindle's address is: O-463560, 7th General Hospital, A.P.O. #514, % Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

Dr. Wilson attended the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons in Chicago from January 19th to 27th.

INFORMATION PLEASE

(Here's the \$64. question)

(Ray Lewis is of no help)

Charleston, S.C.

Superintendent  
Orthopaedic Department  
Crippled & Lame Hospital  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Will you kindly let me know how long a man would have to take 105 trains of salicylate,  $22\frac{1}{2}$  trains of bicarbonate of soda, and a glass of buttermilk before an X-ray would be clear enough to show the amount of arthritis in the knee and ankle joint.

Respectfully yours,